**Earth Sentience**

A recently proposed aquaculture octopus farm in the Canary Islands [would raise 3,000 metric tons of octopus a year](https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-59667645), which means almost 275,000 individual octopuses will be killed annually.

My research examines animal minds and ethics, and to me, the phrase "octopus culture" brings to mind [Octopolis and Octlantis](https://arstechnica.com/science/2017/09/why-octopuses-are-building-small-cities-off-the-coast-of-australia/), two communities of wild octopuses in Jervis Bay, Australia.

In Octopolis, numerous octopuses share – and fight over – a few square meters of seabed. In these watery towns, octopuses form dominance hierarchies, and they've started developing new behaviors: male octopuses fight over territory and, perhaps, females by [throwing debris at one another](https://www.newscientist.com/article/dn28085-octopuses-seen-throwing-things-may-be-using-shells-as-weapons/) and [boxing](https://metazoan.net/15-panocticon/).

**Octopus community-building**

The discovery of octopus communities came as a surprise to biologists who have long described octopuses as solitary animals that interact with others in three specific contexts: [hunting, avoiding being hunted, and mating](https://doi.org/10.51291/2377-7478.1370).

What Octopolis suggests can happen in the wild is what has also been observed in captive octopuses: when living in an overly dense captive environment, [octopuses will form dominance hierarchies](https://doi.org/10.51291/2377-7478.1370).

In their fights for power, male octopuses perform [an array of antagonistic behaviors](https://metazoan.net/33-octopus-signals/), including throwing scallop shells to defend their den, and the "mantle up" display which makes an octopus look like a [menacing vampire](https://metazoan.net/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/Nosferatu-from-sst-1.jpg).

Submissive octopuses signal their compliance with light colors and flattened body postures. For their efforts, the dominants appear to gain better access to high-quality dens and to females.

**Animal culture**

What is going on in Octopolis and Octlantis is properly called octopus culture. The idea of [animal culture](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-1-4419-1428-6_745) emerged after scientists noticed that in some groups, animals perform actions that aren't seen in other groups of the same species.

One of the earliest proponents of animal cultures was the Japanese primatologist [Kinji Imanishi](https://www.routledge.com/A-Japanese-View-of-Nature-The-World-of-Living-Things-by-Kinji-Imanishi/Imanishi-Asquith/p/book/9780700716326), who in the 1950s observed that [a group of Japanese macaques on Koshima Island would wash sweet potatoes in the water before eating them](https://youtu.be/H88M3Av9q-w).

This was a new behavior, not seen in other macaque groups, and observers were lucky enough to observe its origins. A monkey named Imo was the first to wash a potato in the salty water and others soon copied her, leading to a community-wide behavior pattern.

The idea of animal culture drove much subsequent Japanese primatology, but in Europe and North America culture didn't get much attention until 1999, when an article [about culture in chimpanzees was published](https://doi.org/10.1038/21415).

Since then, evidence of culture – group-typical behaviors that are socially learned – has been found [all across the animal kingdom, including among fish, birds, and insects](https://www.ciaoamico.it/pdf/culturaAnimale.pdf).

**A new kind of octopus**

The proposal to start an octopus farm is a proposal to create a new octopus culture, because when cultural animals are brought together, they can't help but create society.

It's also a proposal to create a new kind of octopus: the cultural behaviors coupled with the captive environment will be a novel environmental niche that shapes subsequent evolution.

Our familiar farmed animals – like Angus cows and Chocktaw hogs – [have been domesticated](https://www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/article/domesticated-animals) and are entirely different from the animals they evolved from.

Many of our domesticated animals cannot survive without human care. Examples include [domestic rabbits](https://www.thesprucepets.com/domesticated-rabbits-in-the-wild-1835750), that have evolved without the instincts and coloring wild rabbits have to protect them from predators, [sheep whose wool grows too thick without regular trimming](https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2021/feb/25/mammoth-woolly-baarack-the-overgrown-sheep-shorn-of-his-35kg-fleece), and [chickens bred for meat that can't walk as adults because their breasts are too heavy](https://www.wired.com/2008/02/chickens-cant-w/).

Starting an octopus farm is a commitment to creating a new kind of animal that relies on humans for their existence. It isn't an idea to be taken up lightly, or a project that can responsibly be attempted and then discarded when it turns out to be too difficult or not profitable.

**Managing octopus populations**

There are many reasons to worry that an octopus farm will not be easy to manage. Unlike other farmed animals, octopuses need their space. Octopolis is already a battleground of boxing octopuses; one can only wonder what that will look like on a scale of thousands.

Octopuses are sentient – they are [emotional animals that feel pain](https://doi.org/10.1126/science.abo2378). A recent report commissioned by the [department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs in the United Kingdom](https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-environment-food-rural-affairs) reviewed the scientific evidence for pain experience in cephalopod mollusks (octopuses, squid and cuttlefish).

Sentient animals used for food are protected under welfare laws and killed in ways that should minimize their pain. Current methods of slaughtering octopuses include clubbing, slicing open the brain, or suffocating them.

The report's authors conclude that none of these methods of slaughter are humane [and recommends against octopus farming](https://www.lse.ac.uk/News/News-Assets/PDFs/2021/Sentience-in-Cephalopod-Molluscs-and-Decapod-Crustaceans-Final-Report-November-2021.pdf).

Octopuses are [escape artists](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/apr/13/the-great-escape-inky-the-octopus-legs-it-to-freedom-from-new-zealand-aquarium). The kind of housing needed to shelter them will be difficult to achieve, especially while also providing enrichment, since an enriched environment will be one full of possible getaway routes.

If an octopus farm is started, and then abandoned, the thousands of domesticated cultural octopuses cannot be released into the sea and be expected to flourish.

We learned from the many expensive attempts to release Keiko, the killer whale that starred in the [*Free Willy* franchise](https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0106965/), that successful reintroduction of captive cultural animals into the wild is not easy. Even after spending US$20 million dollars, [Keiko died in captivity](https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/the-20m-lessons-of-freeing-keiko-the-whale/).

The proposal to bring thousands of animals together into an octopus megacity would scale octopus culture far beyond anything found in nature or in captivity.

It would create hundreds of thousands of Keikos, aquatic cultural animals captured from the wild and brought into captivity. And it would force them to live together and create a new culture in what is sure to be a violent octopus slum.

Just now, we are learning that octopuses [feel emotions](https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/octopus-teachers-demonstrate-they-feel-emotional-pain/) and have culture, and we are starting to [rethink current practices of intensive animal farming](https://time.com/5819801/rethink-industrialized-farming-next-pandemic/).

It is exactly the wrong moment to propose such a scheme. We now know better.

**Europa**

[Jupiter](https://www.sciencealert.com/the-weirdest-facts-about-jupiter)'s moon Europa is a prime candidate in the search for life. The frozen moon has a subsurface ocean, and evidence indicates it's warm, salty, and rich in life-enabling chemistry.

New research shows that [the moon](https://www.sciencealert.com/moon) is pulling oxygen down below its icy shell, where it could be feeding simple life.

Whether or not Europa can sustain life in its subsurface ocean is highly debatable, and the debate is essentially stuck in neutral until NASA sends the [Europa Clipper](https://www.universetoday.com/154826/the-europa-clipper-is-coming-together-launching-in-2024/) there.

The mission to Europa has to be meticulously designed, and NASA bases part of the design on what specific questions scientists want the Clipper to address. We can't send a spacecraft to Europa and tell it to find life.

NASA designs missions with big questions in mind, but they can only answer smaller, specific questions. So scientists are studying different aspects of Europa and performing simulations to fine-tune the questions they need the mission to ask.

Oxygen is at the heart of one of those questions. It might be the final piece in understanding Europa's habitability.

Europa has, or we think it has, most of what life needs to sustain itself. Water is the prime ingredient, and it has an abundance of water in its subsurface ocean. Europa has more water than Earth's oceans.

It also has the required chemical nutrients. Life needs energy, and Europa's energy source is tidal flexing from Jupiter, which heats its interior and stops the ocean from freezing solid. These are pretty well-established facts to most scientists.

The frozen moon also has oxygen at its surface, another intriguing hint of habitability. The oxygen is generated when sunlight and charged particles from Jupiter strike the moon's surface.

But there's a problem: Europa's thick ice sheet is a barrier between oxygen and the ocean. Europa's surface is frozen solid, so any life would have to be in its vast ocean.

How can oxygen make its way from the surface to the ocean?

According to a new research letter, pools of saltwater in Europa's icy shell could be transporting the oxygen from the surface to the ocean. The research letter is "[Downward Oxidant Transport Through Europa's Ice Shell by Density-Driven Brine Percolation,](https://agupubs.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1029/2021GL095416)" published in the journal *Geophysical Research Letters*.

The lead author is Marc Hesse, a professor at the UT Jackson School of Geosciences Department of Geological Sciences.

These briny pools exist in places in the shell where some ice melts due to convection currents in the ocean. Europa's famous and photogenic [chaos terrain](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chaos_terrain) forms above these pools.

([NASA/JPL-Caltech/Kevin M. Gill](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File%3AFlyover_of_Jupiter%27s_Moon_Europa_%2826193460888%29.jpg))

Chaos terrain covers about 25 percent of Europa's frozen surface. Chaos terrain is where ridges, cracks, faults, and plains are jumbled together.

There's no clear understanding of the exact causes of chaos terrain, though it's likely related to uneven subsurface heating and melting. Some of Europa's most iconic images highlight this strangely beautiful feature.

Scientists think Europa's ice sheet is about 15 to 25 kilometers (10 to 15 miles) thick. A [2011 study](https://www.nature.com/articles/nature10608) found that chaos terrain on Europa may be located above vast lakes of liquid water as little as 3 km (1.9 miles) below the ice.

These lakes aren't directly connected to the subsurface ocean but can drain into them. According to this new study, the briny lakes can mix with surface oxygen and over time, can deliver large quantities of oxygen to the deeper subsurface ocean.

"Our research puts this process into the realm of the possible," [said](https://news.utexas.edu/2022/03/24/on-jupiters-moon-europa-chaos-terrains-could-be-shuttling-oxygen-to-ocean/) Hesse. "It provides a solution to what is considered one of the outstanding problems of the habitability of the Europa subsurface ocean."

The researchers showed how oxygen is transported through the ice in their simulation.

(Hesse et al., Geophys. Res. Lett., 2022)

*Above:* *This figure shows how oxidants are generated and distributed in Europa's surface ice. Radiolysis sputters H2O into H2 and O, with O recombining into O2. Some of the O2 is released into the moon's atmosphere, but most of it returns to the icy regolith and is trapped in bubbles. The bubbles are the dominant near-surface reservoir for oxidants. Over thousands of years, the bubbles can make their way down to the ocean.*

The oxygen-laden brine moves to the subsurface ocean in a porosity wave. A porosity wave transports the brine through the ice by momentarily widening the pores in the ice before quickly sealing up again. Over thousands of years, these porosity waves transport the oxygen-rich brine to the ocean.

The relationship between chaos terrain and oxygen transport is not completely clear. But scientists think that convective upwellings caused by tidal heating partially melt the ice, manifesting as the jumbled chaos terrain on the surface. The ice under the brine must be molten or partially molten for the oxygen-rich brine to drain into the ocean.

"For these brines to drain, the underlying ice must be permeable and thus partially molten. Previous studies show that tidal heating increases the temperature of upwellings in the convecting portion of Europa's ice shell to the melting point of pure ice," the authors [write](https://agupubs.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1029/2021GL095416).

"Given that chaotic terrains likely form over [diapiric upwellings](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diapir), it is plausible that the underlying ice is partially molten," the letter [says](https://agupubs.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1029/2021GL095416). The presence of NaCl in the connecting ice likely increases the melt.

Europa's surface is bitterly cold but not cold enough to refreeze so quickly that oxygen can't be transported in brines. At the moon's poles, the temperature never rises above minus 220 C (370 F.)

But the model's [results](https://agupubs.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1029/2021GL095416) "…demonstrate that refreezing at the surface is too slow to arrest the drainage of the brine and prevent oxidant delivery to the internal ocean."

Though Europa's surface ice is frozen solid, the ice under it is convective, which delays freezing. And some research shows that the [seafloor may be volcanic](https://agupubs.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1029/2020GL090077).

The study [says](https://agupubs.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1029/2021GL095416) that about 86 percent of the oxygen taken up at Europa's surface makes it to the ocean. Over the moon's history, that percentage could have shifted widely.

But the highest estimate produced by the researchers' model creates an oxygen-rich ocean very similar to Earth's. Could something be living under the ice?

"It's enticing to think of some kind of aerobic organisms living just under the ice," [said](https://news.utexas.edu/2022/03/24/on-jupiters-moon-europa-chaos-terrains-could-be-shuttling-oxygen-to-ocean/) co-author Steven Vance, a research scientist at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) and the supervisor of its Planetary Interiors and Geophysics Group.

Kevin Hand is one of the many scientists keenly interested in Europa, its potential for life, and the upcoming Europa Clipper mission. Hand is a NASA/JPL scientist whose work focuses on Europa. He's hopeful that Hesse and his fellow researchers have solved the problem of oxygen in the frozen moon's oceans.

"We know that Europa has useful compounds like oxygen on its surface, but do those make it down into the ocean below, where life can use them?" he [asked](https://news.utexas.edu/2022/03/24/on-jupiters-moon-europa-chaos-terrains-could-be-shuttling-oxygen-to-ocean/). "In the work by Hesse and his collaborators, the answer seems to be yes."

What questions can the Europa Clipper ask that might confirm these findings?

The Clipper is the first mission dedicated to Europa. We think we know many things about Europa that we haven't been able to confirm. The Clipper is designed to address three larger objectives:

* Investigate the ocean's composition to determine if it has the necessary components to sustain life.
* Investigate the moon's geology to understand how the surface formed, including the chaos terrain.
* Determine the ice shell's thickness and if there's liquid water within and beneath it. They also will determine how the ocean interacts with the surface: Does anything in the ocean rise through the shell to the top? Does any material from the surface work its way down into the ocean?

That last point speaks to the potential transport of oxygen from the surface to the ocean. The Europa Clipper will carry ten instruments that will work together to address these questions.

The [MAss SPectrometer for Planetary EXploration/Europa](https://europa.nasa.gov/spacecraft/instruments/maspex/) (MASPEX) is particularly interesting when it comes to oxygen transport on Europa.

"MASPEX will gain crucial answers from gases near Europa, such as the chemistry of Europa's surface, atmosphere, and suspected ocean," the instrument's webpage [explains](https://europa.nasa.gov/spacecraft/instruments/maspex/). "MASPEX will study how Jupiter's radiation alters Europa's surface compounds and how the surface and ocean exchange material."

MASPEX, and the rest of Europa Clipper's instruments, might confirm oxygen transport from the surface to the ocean, where life could use it if life exists there.

But we'll have to wait a while.

Europa Clipper is scheduled to launch in October 2024 and won't reach the Jupiter system until 5.5 years later. Once there, its science phase is expected to last four years. So it could be 2034 before we have all the data.

In the meantime, research like this will whet our appetites.

**The Jabber Walkers**

**Pfizer hired 600 employees in the months after its COVID-19 vaccine was authorized in the United States due to the “large increase” of reports of side effects linked to the vaccine, according to a document prepared by the company.**

[*A pedestrian walks by Pfizer's New York City headquarters in a file photograph. (Jeenah Moon/Getty Images)*](https://www.zerohedge.com/s3/files/inline-images/pfizer-headquarters-700x420.jpg?itok=S9EsKOPa)

Pfizer has “taken a multiple actions to help alleviate the large increase of adverse event reports,” according to the document. “This includes significant technology enhancements, and process and workflow solutions, as well as increasing the number of data entry and case processing colleagues.”

At the time when the document—from the first quarter of 2021—was sent to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), **Pfizer had onboarded about 600 extra full-time workers to deal with the jump.**

**“More are joining each month with an expected total of more than 1,800 additional resources by the end of June 2021,” Pfizer said.**

The document was titled a “cumulative analysis of post-authorization adverse event reports” of Pfizer’s vaccine received through Feb. 28, 2021. It was approved by the FDA on April 30, 2021.

The document was not made public until the Public Health and Medical Professionals for Transparency sued the FDA after the agency [claimed](https://www.theepochtimes.com/fda-asks-court-for-55-years-to-fully-release-pfizer-covid-19-vaccine-data_4110761.html) it needed decades to produce all the documents relating to the emergency use authorization granted to the company for the vaccine.

**Under an agreement**[**reached in February**](https://www.theepochtimes.com/fda-doctors-group-reach-agreement-on-production-of-pfizer-vaccine-documents_4258874.html)**, the FDA must produce a certain number of pages each month.**

The analysis of adverse event reports was previously disclosed to the health transparency group, but certain portions were redacted ([pdf](https://phmpt.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/5.3.6-postmarketing-experience.pdf)), including the number of workers Pfizer onboarded to deal with the jump in adverse event reports.

“We asked that the redactions on page 6 of this report be lifted and the FDA agreed without providing an explanation,” Aaron Siri, a lawyer representing the plaintiffs, told The Epoch Times in an email.

After the document was produced, the FDA determined that the three redactions on that page “could be lifted,” an FDA spokesperson told The Epoch Times via email.

The redactions had been made under (b) (4) of the Freedom of Information Act, which lets agencies “withhold trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person which is privileged or confidential.”

The unredacted version of the document also now shows that approximately 126 million doses of Pfizer were shipped around the world since the company received the first clearance, from U.S. regulators, on Dec. 1, 2020. The shipments took place through Feb. 28, 2021.

It was unclear how many of those doses had been administered as of that date.

Pfizer did not respond to emailed questions, including how many workers it has onboarded to deal with adverse events.

The companies that manufacture the other two COVID-19 vaccines that U.S. regulators have cleared, Moderna and Johnson & Johnson, did not respond when asked if they have seen an increase in adverse events and if they have hired more employees to deal with reports.

The number of post-vaccination adverse event reports to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System, jointly run by the FDA and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, [has spiked](https://www.theepochtimes.com/numerous-health-problems-more-likely-due-to-covid-19-vaccines-than-coincidence-vaers-data-analysis_4380017.html) since the vaccines were first cleared.

Problems linked to the vaccines include heart inflammation, blood clotting, and severe allergic shock.

Federal officials say the vaccines’ benefits outweigh the risks, but some experts are increasingly [questioning that assertion](https://www.theepochtimes.com/trio-of-new-studies-revives-questions-about-covid-19-vaccines-for-young-children_4316548.html), particularly for certain populations.

**Cancelling Russia**

*Vast swathes of NATOstan have been corralled into behaving like a Russophobic lynch mob. No dissent is tolerated.*

By now it’s abundantly clear that the neo-Orwellian “Two Minute Hate” Russophobic campaign launched by the Empire of Lies after the start of Operation Z is actually “24/7 Hate”.

Vast swathes of NATOstan have been corralled into behaving like a Russophobic lynch mob. No dissent is tolerated. The full psyops has de facto upgraded the Empire of Lies to the status of Empire of Hate in a Total War – hybrid and otherwise – to cancel Russia.

Hate, after all, packs way more punch than mere lies, which are now veering into abject ridiculousness, as in U.S. “intelligence” resorting to – what else – lies to [fight the info war](https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/national-security/us-using-declassified-intel-fight-info-war-russia-even-intel-isnt-rock-rcna23014) against Russia.

If the propaganda overdrive has been lethally effective amidst the zombified Western masses – call it a “win” in the P.R. war – in the front where it really matters, inside Russia, it’s a major fail.

Public opinion support for both Operation Z and President Putin is unprecedented. After videos of torture of Russian POWs that caused widespread revulsion, Russian civil society is even bracing for a “Long War” lasting months, not weeks, as long as the targets of the Russian High Command – actually a military secret – are met.

The stated aims are “demilitarization” and “denazification” of a future neutral Ukraine – but geopolitically reach way beyond: the aim is to turn the post-1945 European collective security arrangement upside down, forcing NATO to understand and come to terms with the concept of “indivisible security”. This is an extremely complex process that will reach the next decade.

The NATOstan sphere simply cannot admit in public a series of facts that a military analyst of the caliber of Andrei Martyanov has been explaining for years. And that adds to their collective pain.

Russia can take on NATO and smash it to bits in 48 hours. It may employ advanced strategic deterrence systems unmatched across the West. Its southern axis – from the Caucasus and West Asia to Central Asia – is fully stabilized. And if the going gets really tough, Mr. Zircon can deliver his hypersonic nuclear business card with the other side not even knowing what hit it.

**“Europe has chosen its fate”**

It may be enlightening to see how these complex processes are interpreted by Russians – whose points of view are now completely blocked across NATOstan.

Let’s take two examples. The first is Lieutenant General L.P. Reshetnikov, in an analytical note examining facts of the ground war.

Some key takeaways:

– “Over Romania and Poland there are airborne early warning aircraft of NATO with experienced crews, there are U.S. intelligence satellites in the sky all the time. I remind you that just in terms of budgets for our Roscosmos we allocated $2.5 billion a year, the civil budget of NASA is $25 billion, the civil budget of SpaceX alone is equal to Roscosmos – and that is not counting the tens of billions of dollars annually for the entire U.S. feverishly unfolding the control system of the entire planet.”

– The war is unfolding according to “NATO’s eyes and brains. The Ukronazis are nothing but free controlled zombies. And the Ukrainian army is a remotely controlled zombie organism.”

– “The tactics and strategy of this war will be the subject of textbooks for military academies around the world. Once again: the Russian army is smashing a Nazi zombie organism, fully integrated with the eyes and brain of NATO.”

Now let’s switch to [Oleg Makarenko](https://olegmakarenko.ru/2389826.html), who focuses on the Big Picture.

– “The West considers itself ‘the whole world’ only because it has not yet received a sufficiently sensitive punch on the nose. It just so happened that Russia is now giving him this click: with the rear support of Asia, Africa and Latin America. And the West can do absolutely nothing with us, since it also lags behind us in terms of the number of nuclear warheads.”

– “Europe has chosen its fate. And chose fate for Russia. What you are seeing now is the death of Europe. Even if it does not come to nuclear strikes on industrial centers, Europe is doomed. In a situation where European industry is left without cheap Russian energy sources and raw materials – and China will begin to receive these same energy carriers and raw materials at a discount, there can be no talk of any real competition with China from Europe. As a result, literally everything will collapse there – after industry, agriculture will collapse, welfare and social security will collapse, hunger, banditry and chaos will begin.”

It’s fair to consider Reshetnikov and Makarenko as faithfully representing the overall Russian sentiment, which interprets the crude Bucha false flag as a cover to obscure the Ukrainian army torture of Russian POWs.

And, deeper still, Bucha allowed the disappearance of Pentagon bioweapon labs from the Western mediasphere, complete with its ramifications: evidence of a concerted American drive to ultimately deploy real weapons of mass destruction against Russia.

The multi-level Bucha hoax had to include the Brit presidency of the UN Security Council actually blocking a serious discussion, a day before the Russian Ministry of Defense struggled to present to the UN – predictably minus the U.S. and the UK – all the bioweapon facts they have unearthed in Ukraine. The Chinese were [horrified](https://www.rt.com/russia/553092-china-biolabs-ukraine-russia/) by the findings.

The Russian Investigative Committee at least persists in its work, with 100 researchers unearthing evidence of war crimes across Donbass to be presented at a tribunal in the near future, most probably set up in Donetsk.

And that brings us back to the facts on the ground. There’s a lot of analytical discussion on the possible endgame of Operation Z. A fair assessment would include the liberation of all of Novorossiya and total control of the Black Sea coastline that currently is part of Ukraine.

“Ukraine” in fact was never a state; it was always an annex to another state or empire such as Poland, Austria-Hungary, Turkey, and crucially Russia.

The landmark Russian state was Kievan Rus. “Ukraine”, in old Russian, means “border region”. In the past, it referred to the westernmost regions of the Russian Empire. When the Empire started expanding south, the new regions annexed mostly from Turkish rule were called Novorossiya (“New Russia”) and the northeastern regions, Malorossiya (“Little Russia”).

It was up to the USSR in the early 1920s to jumble it all together and name it “Ukraine” – adding Galicia in the west, which was historically non-Russian.

Yet the key development is when the USSR broke up in 1991. As the Empire of Lies de facto controlled post-Soviet Russia, they could never have possibly allowed the real Russian regions of the USSR – that is, Novorossiya and Malorossiya – to be again incorporated to the Russian Federation.

Russia is now re-incorporating them – in an “I Did It, My Way” manner.

**Vamos a bailar in European Puerto Rico**

By now it’s also quite clear to any serious geopolitical analysis that Operation Z opened a Pandora’s box. And the supreme historical victim of all the toxicity finally let loose is bound to be Europe.

The indispensable Michael Hudson, in a [new essay on the U.S. dollar devouring the euro](http://thesaker.is/the-dollar-devours-the-euro/), argues half in jest that Europe might as well surrender its currency, and go on like “a somewhat larger version of Puerto Rico.”

After all, Europe “has pretty much ceased to be a politically independent state, it is beginning to look more like Panama and Liberia – ‘flag of convenience’ offshore banking centers that are not real ‘states’ because they don’t issue their own currency, but use the U.S. dollar.”

In synch with quite a few Russian, Chinese and Iranian analysts, Hudson advances that the war in Ukraine – actually in its “full-blown version as the New Cold War” – is likely to last “at least a decade, perhaps two as the U.S. extends the fight between neoliberalism and socialism [meaning the Chinese system] to encompass a worldwide conflict.”

What may be seriously in dispute is whether the U.S., after “the economic conquest of Europe”, will be able to “lock in African, South American and Asian countries”. The Eurasia integration process, rolling in earnest for 10 years now, conducted by the Russia-China strategic partnership and expanding to most of the Global South, will go no holds barred to prevent it.

There’s no question, as Hudson states, that “the world economy is being enflamed” – with the U.S. weaponizing trade. Yet on the Right Side of History we have the [Rublegas](https://thecradle.co/Article/columns/8638), the petroyuan, the new monetary/financial system being designed in a partnership between the Eurasia Economic Union (EAEU) and China.

And that’s something no puny Cancel Culture War can erase.

**The Angel of Death**

Victoria Nuland engineered Ukraine’s “regime change” in early 2014 without weighing the likely chaos and consequences.

As the Ukrainian army squares off against ultra-right and neo-Nazi militias in the west and violence against ethnic Russians continues in the east, the obvious folly of the Obama administration’s Ukraine policy has come into focus even for many who tried to ignore the facts, or what you might call “the mess that Victoria Nuland made.”

**Assistant Secretary of State for European Affairs “Toria” Nuland** was the “mastermind” behind the Feb. 22, 2014 “regime change” in Ukraine, plotting the overthrow of the democratically elected government of **President Viktor Yanukovych** while convincing the ever-gullible U.S. mainstream media that the coup wasn’t really a coup but a victory for “democracy.”

To sell this latest neocon-driven “regime change” to the American people, the ugliness of the coup-makers had to be systematically airbrushed, particularly the key role of neo-Nazis and other ultra-nationalists from the Right Sektor. For the U.S.-organized propaganda campaign to work, the coup-makers had to wear white hats, not brown shirts.

So, for nearly a year and a half, the West’s mainstream media, especially *The New York Times*and*The Washington Post*, twisted their reporting into all kinds of contortions to avoid telling their readers that the new regime in Kiev was permeated by and dependent on neo-Nazi fighters and Ukrainian ultra-nationalists who wanted a pure-blood Ukraine, without ethnic Russians.

Azov Battalion members. ( Gianluca Agostini/Wikimedia Commons)

Any mention of that sordid reality was deemed “Russian propaganda” and anyone who spoke this inconvenient truth was a “stooge of Moscow.” It wasn’t until July 7 that the*Times* [admitted](https://consortiumnews.com/2015/07/07/ukraine-merges-nazis-and-islamists/) the importance of the neo-Nazis and other ultra-nationalists in waging war against ethnic Russian rebels in the east. The*Times* also reported that these far-right forces had been joined by Islamic militants. Some of those jihadists have been called “brothers” of the hyper-brutal Islamic State.

Though the *Times* sought to spin this remarkable military alliance neo-Nazi militias and Islamic jihadists as a positive, the reality had to be jarring for readers who had bought into the Western propaganda about noble “pro-democracy” forces resisting evil “Russian aggression.”

Perhaps the *Times* sensed that it could no longer keep the lid on the troubling truth in Ukraine. For weeks, the Right Sektor militias and the neo-Nazi Azov battalion have been warning the civilian government in Kiev that they might turn on it and create a new order more to their liking.

**Clashes in the West**

Oct. 8, 2014: U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Victoria Nuland at a Ukrainian State Border Guard Service Base in Kiev. (U.S. Embassy Kyiv, Flickr)

Then, on Saturday, violent clashes [broke out](https://www.nytimes.com/2015/07/13/world/europe/police-in-western-ukraine-clash-with-paramilitary-group-7-are-hurt.html?ref=world) in the western Ukrainian town of Mukachevo, allegedly over the control of cigarette-smuggling routes. Right Sektor paramilitaries sprayed police officers with bullets from a belt-fed machine gun, and police backed by Ukrainian government troops returned fire. Several deaths and multiple injuries were reported.

Tensions escalated on Monday with **President Petro Poroshenko** ordering national security forces to disarm “armed cells” of political movements. Meanwhile, the Right Sektor dispatched reinforcements to the area while other militiamen converged on the capital of Kiev.

While President Poroshenko and Right Sektor leader **Dmitry Yarosh** may succeed in tamping down this latest flare-up of hostilities, they may be only postponing the inevitable: a conflict between the U.S.-backed authorities in Kiev and the neo-Nazis and other right-wing fighters who spearheaded last year’s coup and have been at the front lines of the fighting against ethnic Russian rebels in the east.

The Ukrainian right-wing extremists feel they have carried the heaviest burden in the war against the ethnic Russians and resent the politicians living in the relative safety and comfort of Kiev. In March, [Poroshenko also fired thuggish oligarch Igor Kolomoisky](https://consortiumnews.com/2015/03/24/ukraines-oligarchs-turn-on-each-other/) as governor of the southeastern province of Dnipropetrovsk Oblast. Kolomoisky had been the primary benefactor of the Right Sektor militias.

So, as has become apparent across Europe and even in Washington, the Ukraine crisis is spinning out of control, making the State Department’s preferred narrative of the conflict that it’s all Russian President Vladimir Putin’s fault harder and harder to sell.

How Ukraine is supposed to pull itself out of what looks like a death spiral a possible two-front war in the east and the west along with a crashing economy is hard to comprehend. The European Union, confronting budgetary crises over Greece and other EU members, has little money or patience for Ukraine, its neo-Nazis and its socio-political chaos.

America’s neocons at *The Washington Post* and elsewhere still rant about the need for the Obama administration to sink more billions upon billions of dollars into post-coup Ukraine because it “shares our values.” But that argument, too, is collapsing as Americans see the heart of a racist nationalism beating inside Ukraine’s new order.

**Another Neocon ‘Regime Change’**

Much of what has happened, of course, was predictable and indeed was predicted, but neocon Nuland couldn’t resist the temptation to pull off a “regime change” that she could call her own.

Her husband (and arch-neocon) **Robert Kagan** had co-founded the Project for the New American Century in 1998 around a demand for “regime change” in Iraq, a project that was accomplished in 2003 with President George W. Bush’s invasion.

As with Nuland in Ukraine, Kagan and his fellow neocons thought they could engineer an easy invasion of Iraq, oust Saddam Hussein and install some hand-picked client in Iraq, **Ahmed Chalabi** was to be “the guy.” But they failed to take into account the harsh realities of Iraq, such as the fissures between Sunnis and Shiites, exposed by the U.S.-led invasion and occupation.

In Ukraine, Nuland and her neocon and liberal-interventionist friends saw the chance to poke Putin in the eye by encouraging violent protests to overthrow Russia-friendly President Yanukovych and put in place a new regime hostile to Moscow.

**Carl Gershman**, the neocon president of the U.S.-taxpayer-funded National Endowment for Democracy, explained the plan in a *Post* [op-ed](https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/former-soviet-states-stand-up-to-russia-will-the-us/2013/09/26/b5ad2be4-246a-11e3-b75d-5b7f66349852_story.html) on Sept. 26, 2013. Gershman called Ukraine “the biggest prize” and an important interim step toward toppling Putin, who “may find himself on the losing end not just in the near abroad but within Russia itself.”

For her part, Nuland passed out cookies to anti-Yanukovych demonstrators at the Maidan square, reminded Ukrainian business leaders that the U.S. had invested $5 billion in their “European aspirations,” declared “fuck the EU” for its less aggressive approach, and discussed with U.S.**Ambassador Geoffrey Pyatt** who the new leaders of Ukraine should be. “Yats is the guy,” she said, referring to **Arseniy Yatsenyuk**.

Nuland saw her big chance on Feb. 20, 2014, when a mysterious sniper apparently firing from a building controlled by the Right Sektor shot and killed both police and protesters, escalating the crisis. On Feb. 21, in a desperate bid to avert more violence, Yanukovych agreed to a European-guaranteed plan in which he accepted reduced powers and called for early elections so he could be voted out of office.

But that wasn’t enough for the anti-Yanukovych forces who led by Right Sektor and neo-Nazi militias overran government buildings on Feb. 22, forcing Yanukovych and many of his officials to flee for their lives. With armed thugs patrolling the corridors of power, the final path to “regime change” was clear.

Instead of trying to salvage the Feb. 21 agreement, Nuland and European officials arranged for an unconstitutional procedure to strip Yanukovych of the presidency and declared the new regime “legitimate.” Nuland’s “guy” Yatsenyuk became prime minister.

While Nuland and her neocon cohorts celebrated, their “regime change” prompted an obvious reaction from Putin, who recognized the strategic threat that this hostile new regime posed to the historic Russian naval base at Sevastopol in Crimea. On Feb. 23, he began to take steps to protect those Russian interests.

**Ethnic Hatreds**

Lviv (west Ukraine) during WWII. Inscription on Soviet poster says: Destroy German Monster. (Unknown/Wikimedia Commons)

What the coup also did was revive long pent-up antagonisms between the ethnic Ukrainians in the west, including elements that had supported Adolf Hitler’s invasion of the Soviet Union during World War Two, and ethnic Russians in the south and east who feared the anti-Russian sentiments emanating from Kiev.

First, in Crimea and then in the so-called Donbas region, these ethnic Russians, who had been Yanukovych’s political base, resisted what they viewed as the illegitimate overthrow of their elected president. Both areas held referenda seeking separation from Ukraine, a move that Russia accepted in Crimea but resisted with the Donbas.

However, when the Kiev regime announced an “anti-terrorism operation” against the Donbas and dispatched neo-Nazi and other extremist militias to be the tip of the spear, Moscow began quietly assisting the embattled ethnic Russian rebels, a move that Nuland, the Obama administration and the mainstream news media called “Russian aggression.”

Amid the Western hysteria over Russia’s supposedly “imperial designs” and the thorough demonizing of Putin,**President Barack Obama** essentially authorized a new Cold War against Russia, reflected now in new U.S. strategic planning that could cost the U.S. taxpayers trillions of dollars and risk a possible nuclear confrontation.

Yet, despite the extraordinary costs and dangers, Nuland failed to appreciate the practical on-the-ground realities, much as her husband and other neocons did in Iraq. While Nuland got her hand-picked client Yatsenyuk installed and he did oversee a U.S.-demanded “neo-liberal” economic plan slashing pensions, heating assistance and other social programs the chaos that her “regime change” unleashed transformed Ukraine into a financial black hole.

With few prospects for a clear-cut victory over the ethnic Russian resistance in the east and with the neo-Nazi/Islamist militias increasingly restless over the stalemate the chances to restore any meaningful sense of order in the country appear remote. Unemployment is soaring and the government is essentially bankrupt.

The last best hope for some stability may have been the Minsk-2 agreement in February 2015, calling for a federalized system to give the Donbas more autonomy, but Nuland’s Prime Minister Yatsenyuk sabotaged the deal in March by [inserting a poison pill](https://consortiumnews.com/2015/03/19/ukraines-poison-pill-for-peace-talks/) that essentially demanded that the ethnic Russian rebels first surrender.

Now, the Ukraine chaos threatens to spiral even further out of control with the neo-Nazis and other right-wing militias supplied with a bounty of weapons to kill ethnic Russians in the east turning on the political leadership in Kiev.

In other words, the neocons have struck again, dreaming up a “regime change” scheme that ignored practical realities, such as ethnic and religious fissures. Then, as the blood flowed and the suffering worsened, the neocons just sought out someone else to blame.

Thus, it seems unlikely that Nuland, regarded by some in Washington as the new “star” in U.S. foreign policy, will be fired for her dangerous incompetence, just as most neocons who authored the Iraq disaster remain “respected” experts employed by major think tanks, given prized space on op-ed pages, and consulted at the highest levels of the U.S. government.

Not a single Jewish organization in American protested against this because supporting Neo-Nazis in Ukraine was largely a Neoconservative enterprise. Victoria Nuland spent billions of dollars coaching those Neo-Nazis. Moreover, David Frum of the *Atlantic* scorned at the claim that there was a small but significant group of Neo-Nazis in Ukraine. Those Neo-Nazis, Frum implied, were seeking “true democracy in Ukraine.”

Do you now see how the Powers That Be can manipulate things around and move the masses to an essentially wicked ideology? If they condemn Neo-Nazis everywhere, then the Neoconservative movement should be dumped in the trashcan of history once and for all.

**As we have repeatedly** declared in the past five years or so, the New World Order seeks to destroy the reasonable world and political order and replaces them with an essentially diabolical ideology. Victoria Nuland and her family (Robert Kagan and Fred Kagan) are part of that diabolical enterprise. They created chaos in Ukraine and other places, and there was no need to put them on a political pedestal anymore.

**Who is the Angel of Death?**

She was the [Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs](https://wikispooks.com/wiki/Assistant_Secretary_of_State_for_European_and_Eurasian_Affairs) at the [United States Department of State](https://wikispooks.com/wiki/United_States_Department_of_State) under [Obama](https://wikispooks.com/wiki/Obama).[[1]](https://wikispooks.com/wiki/Victoria_Nuland#cite_note-1) She served as Vice President Dick Cheney's deputy national security adviser from July 2003 to May 2005. She is married to [Robert Kagan](https://wikispooks.com/wiki/Robert_Kagan), the co-founder of [Project for the New American Century](https://wikispooks.com/wiki/Project_for_the_New_American_Century).

Nuland was the Deputy Permanent Representative to [NATO](https://wikispooks.com/wiki/NATO) from July 2000 to July 2003. There she was instrumental in NATO's invocation of Article 5 of its charter – "an attack on one ally is an attack on all" – in support of the United States after September 11, 2001. She also worked intensively on the enlargement of the Alliance to include seven new members, the creation of the [NATO-Russia Council](https://wikispooks.com/w/index.php?title=NATO-Russia_Council&action=edit&redlink=1), NATO's first deployment "out of area" to Afghanistan and its defense of Turkey during the invasion of Iraq.

From 1997 to 1999, she was Deputy Director for former Soviet Union affairs at the United States Department of State, with primary responsibility for U.S. policy towards the Russian Federation and the Caucasus countries. In that capacity, she was awarded the Secretary of Defense's Distinguished Civilian Service medal for her work with the Russians during the Kosovo bombing campaign.

Although Milosevich was unscathed by Hillary’s war to get her husband’s name out of the impeachment press, Nuland succeeded in capturing him and murdering him in prison.

On February 6, 2014 a recording of a telephone conversation between Nuland and the [US Ambassador to Ukraine](https://wikispooks.com/w/index.php?title=US_Ambassador_to_Ukraine&action=edit&redlink=1), [Geoffrey Pyatt](https://wikispooks.com/wiki/Geoffrey_Pyatt) about the [Ukraine Coup](https://wikispooks.com/wiki/Ukraine_coup_2014), was broadcast on [YouTube](https://wikispooks.com/wiki/YouTube). Nuland was discussing with Pyatt her plans for the role of the Ukrainian opposition, and she notably remarked "Fuck the [EU](https://wikispooks.com/wiki/EU)". She also identified opposition member [Arseniy Yatsenyuk](https://wikispooks.com/wiki/Arseniy_Yatsenyuk) as the US preferred leader of the new government which was being prepared, a preference which was fulfilled a few weeks later. This has been largely ignored by the [commercially-controlled media](https://wikispooks.com/wiki/Corporate_media) and attempts have been made to obscure the import of what was leaked.

You see, this is not Putin’s war. This is Nuland’s war. She is on the move this week near Cyprus because she did not count on Russia stepping in to save Ukraine from being enslaved. The Nazi Azovs were all set and armed to invade Crimea on March 23rd. Putin launched his operation on February 24th to stop the Azov invasion and save hundreds of thousands of Russian lives that Nuland had planned to wipe out with her puppet crackhead, Zelensky dancing and singing to the world press the whole way.

Wake up, free people of the world. Putin has the same enemies as you. Russia is more than 1,000 years old, and it cannot be cancelled just because Victoria Nuland wants them to wither and die. This is her war. And I predict she will lose.

 The Ukrainian and Russian armies are squared off against Nazi militias. They have been murdering and raping Ukrainians and ethnic Russians in the east since 2015. Nuland has funded them, armed them, and continuously provides them intelligence technology to seize Ukraine from Russians living there for hundreds of years. The obvious folly of the Obama administration’s Ukraine policy has come into focus even for many who tried to ignore the facts, or what you might call “the mess that Victoria Nuland made.”

For nearly a year and a half, the Global Media Empire, especially The New York Times and The Washington Post, twisted their reporting into all kinds of contortions to avoid telling their readers that the new regime in Kiev was permeated by and dependent on neo-Nazi fighters and Ukrainian ultra-nationalists who wanted a pure-blood Ukraine, without ethnic Russians.

Any mention of that sordid reality was deemed “Russian propaganda” and anyone who spoke this inconvenient truth was a “stooge of Moscow.”

The only place you are getting the truth is from the main stream news, which is now us. We are the news you can trust.

**The Midterm Mayhem**

I have told you many times about the Global Syndicate and their intense dislike of losing. They feel like a cornered dog that needs to lash out with their bared teeth to destroy anything holding it in that corner. When Donald Trump won the 2016 election, they started impeachment the following day. When he told them this was not the peaceful transition of power from one party to another, but rather this was the transfer of power from Washington DC to the people, it was a declaration of war for them. They treated it as such, and they didn’t care if it went hot or not. Hillary was supposed to carry the executioner’s sword to end America.

When they cheated so horrifically in 2020, they had no choice. They had to win, no matter what it cost. When they won, they opened the gallows and began executing Republicans. They went after the tourists on January 6th and slammed them into 19th century dungeons and began torturing them. They sued Trump officials until they were broke. They went after the taxpayers, the students, the home owners, and even the factory owners by bribing their employees to stay home. The shut down the entire world to smash the historic Trump economy.

Now, in the Spring of 2022, we the people understand what was done to us. We are ready to revolt, and we are united like we have not been since World War II. We are not rising up in the streets. Not yet. We are, however, going to vote in 7 months. Democrats are going to be wiped out. They stand to lose 70 seats, and maybe more than that. Americans are mad enough to end the entire Party.

The Democrats will face their constituents in the midterm elections — and even they are in a surly mood. They were lied to. They were cheated. The truth was withheld, and they are mad about it. Most polls suggest this dissatisfaction is about the state of the economy combined with a sense that, under Virtual Joe and his gang of criminals, the country is careening from crisis to crisis like a drunk who has cut his head open after falling against the curb.

The latest Quinnipiac [survey](https://poll.qu.edu/images/polling/us/us03302022_regvoter_umfd84.pdf), for example, shows that only 36 percent of  voters approve of the way Biden has handled the economy, and that inflation is their most urgent concern. According to the latest Morning Consult [poll](https://assets.morningconsult.com/wp-uploads/2022/03/29162021/2203186_crosstabs_POLITICO_RVs_v2_SH.pdf), 70 percent of voters believe the country is on the wrong track. No one has ever faced numbers this bad. Ever.

This kind of dissent will cause a major midterm loss for the Democrats when combined with the generic congressional ballot which, according to the RealClearPolitics [average](https://www.realclearpolitics.com/epolls/other/2022-generic-congressional-vote-7361.html), favors the GOP. Ordinarily, this wouldn’t be unusual, but not this extent. The President’s party almost always suffers losses in the first midterm of his tenure. The only exceptions occurred in 1934 and 2002. Consequently, the Democrats shouldn’t be surprised to find themselves on the verge of losing their razor thin congressional majorities, which they have arrogantly treated as massive mandate. Yet House Speaker Nancy Pelosi made a disturbing claim during a recent interview with *Time*magazine’s Molly Ball, who posed the following [question](https://newhouse.syr.edu/centers/robin-toner-program-in-political-reporting/2022-toner-prizes-celebration/):

We’ve got a midterm election this year. Most people are saying it doesn’t look very good for your party. How do you see the midterms going, and what do you see as the potential consequences if Democrats lose Congress? That’s a fair question, but one no one would have thought the liberal media would ever ask.

Pelosi’s answer should send a chill down the spine of every human on earth:

I don’t have any intention of the Democrats losing.… It is absolutely essential for our democracy that we win. I fear for our democracy if the Republicans were ever to get the gavel. We can’t let that happen. Democracy is on the ballot in November.

There’s more here than the usual bombast we get from politicians who think their party is about to lose an election. She didn’t say the GOP will enact bad policies if they win. She suggests that democracy itself will die if the Republicans “were *ever* to get the gavel.”

Pelosi no longer thinks of an election between Democrats and Republicans as a competition between two parties with differing views on the best way to govern the country. She has adopted the far-left position that her form of government must be preserved at all costs. No matter what. Even if they have to cheat. Even if they have to kill. This is a struggle for darkness to remain in power, and they will not let the light shine in their dungeon; ever again.

The adoption of this Luciferian approach to politics by the Speaker of the House — third in the presidential line of succession — is no laughing matter. It endows Pelosi with a sense of black superiority that justifies virtually anything it takes to win—including the criminalization of political opponents. The textbook example of dehumanizing opponents is as old as Baal. Hillary Clinton called Americans “deplorables”, and it continues apace among Democrats and in the corporate media. Writing in *Salon* just four months ago, Chauncey DeVega [declared](https://www.salon.com/2021/12/07/hillary-clinton-was-right-about-the-deplorables--and-about-reproductive-rights/), “Hillary was right about the ‘deplorables’.”

Clinton’s description was in fact about much more than the patriots who flocked to Trump’s banner. It was about labeling anyone who would consider voting for Trump into racists and white supremacists, sexist and misogynists, full of collective narcissism, anti-intellectualism, an infatuation with violence, proud ignorance and support for fascism and authoritarianism. The hatred spewed from their news actors like demons screaming before being cast out into the bodies of pigs.

They openly and illegally used the Agencies to destroy patriots wherever they could be found. The *New York Times* [reports](https://www.nytimes.com/2022/04/02/us/politics/merrick-garland-biden-trump.html) that members of the House committee investigating the Jan. 6 “insurrection” are growing increasingly frustrated with what they see as the Justice Department’s dilatory response to their criminal referrals: “The panel is working with a sense of urgency to build its case ahead of this year’s midterm elections.” Attorney General Merrick Garland is facing a lot of pressure from House Democrats and the Biden administration to act. Garland’s reticence, however, may be about his concern that the committee is a partisan cudgel rather than a legitimate investigative body.

Predictably, the inquiry has steadily metastasized into a McCarthyite inquisition based on the proposition that former President Trump and a long list of “far right” figures were involved in a criminal conspiracy to undermine the results of the 2020 election. According to the *Times*, the suspected conspirators [include](https://www.nytimes.com/explain/2022/03/09/us/jan-6-inquiry-figures#outside-advisers-and-groups) Republican members of Congress, former White House officials, the wife of a sitting Supreme Court justice, conservative media personalities, informal Trump advisors, outside lawyers, and various “extremist” groups. It’s probably fair to say that this  committee is far more sinister than anything that occurred on Jan. 6.

If all of this seems to exude a familiar stench, it isn’t an olfactory hallucination. It’s just more malodorous smog from the distraction factory that produced the Russia collusion hoax. The Democrats are about to lose their congressional majorities, and they are polluting our politics with a good vs. evil narrative in the hope of obscuring their myriad failures from the voters. When Nancy Pelosi says she fears for our democracy if the GOP retakes Congress, what she’s really worried about is losing power. Pelosi will do and say anything to avoid that, even if it means actively undermining the legitimacy of the November midterm elections.

**Dollywood, not Disney**

Our family ended up at Dollywood recently by happenstance. We were visiting family in Tennessee. The morning after we had arrived long past the children’s bedtime, we awoke groggily and sought coffee. Quickly provided this necessary brew by my attentive young second cousin, I turned to his mom and said, “Okay, what do you all want to do this week?” She exclaimed, “Let’s go to Dollywood!”

I hadn’t expected that, but we were here to spend happy time with them, and if that’s what they wanted, that’s what we wanted, too. So my cousin spent about an hour calling friends for advice about how best to do Dollywood, then putting together our day trip package.

I wasn’t sure what to expect. My husband and I wouldn’t describe ourselves as theme park people. In fact, I am terrified of rollercoasters; the classic country fair [egg scrambler](https://www.cedarpoint.com/rides-experiences/scrambler) maxes out my ride capacity.

My husband isn’t that emotionally handicapped, but he’s a low-key, easy-please fellow. We mostly go on hikes in the woods or bike rides for family fun, that kind of thing. My idea of a great night out is going somewhere our 15 million (I mean, six) children won’t interrupt our conversation 70 billion times. Add some ice cream or coffee, and that’s my best life now.

So I was a little skeptical, but in the interest of not being a big fat stick in the mud, I determined to be as pleasant and open-minded as possible and just try to help everyone else have a good time. These low expectations were constantly exceeded during our one-day visit. We came away very willing to go again.

**Do Dollywood, Not Disney**

By contrast, Walt Disney World in Florida and Disneyland in California have long been on our “over my dead body” list, and with Dollywood as an option they will most certainly stay there. It’s not just the recent visibility of the [longstanding fact](https://afajournal.org/past-issues/1997/june/why-american-families-should-boycott-disney/) that Disney’s post-Walt corporate leadership works to undermine sexual wholeness, but also about the greedy commercialization of the Disney brand.

Even setting aside their [recently revealed](https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/us/disney-injecting-queerness-into-childrens-programming-chris-rufo/ar-AAVGUzc) support for destroying human happiness through sexual chaos, Disney’s products push a lifestyle that doesn’t reflect my goals for family life. I don’t want my kids taught to be whiny brats whose biggest lesson to learn is that all authority figures are dumb or evil. That’s a main message of almost every major Disney property, and it’s very bad for kids.

Other destructive and pervasive Disney messages include that men (especially dads) are stupid and bad, women can do no wrong, women need to validate themselves by beating people up more fiercely than the boys do, celebrity is something to aspire to (instead of being a good person), and “if it feels good, do it.” These are terrible values that can and do destroy people just as much as severing their genitals. I have no interest in supporting these messages with my money or my children’s attention. So we have never been a Disney family, and we never will be.

Dollywood, on the other hand, that I can get into. The only message Dollywood pushed is that people should love each other. Oh, and “Love Every Moment.” Who can feel uncomfortable with that? Here’s a little rundown about what I liked best about Dollywood, what I didn’t, and what worked for our family in terms of logistics.

**Perfect Mix of Fun for a Variety of Ages and Abilities**

Perhaps the best thing about going as a large family group was that Dollywood had something for everyone. As I mentioned, I don’t do rollercoasters, but the teens and other grownups with us did, and they had a great time. My oldest son, who is 11, tried his first rollercoasters and had the time of his life screaming alongside his aunt and cousins. They spent the entire day going from one rollercoaster to the next.

Those in our group who had recently visited other large theme parks, including Disney World, said the rollercoaster and general park experience was much better at Dollywood. It was less hectic, better organized, less spendy, and more wholesome. We visited on a gorgeous April spring Friday, and the park was humming but not packed. It really was perfect.



This five-year-old and eight-year-old went on a few rollercoasters. They were scared but they liked it.

For the rollercoaster riders, we did spend the extra for the “Timesaver” add-on that lets you jump to the front of the lines. That almost doubles the ticket price if you get the unlimited pass, but it was worth it. I expect things are even busier heading into summer, so that would make the Timesaver pass even more worth it. (If you want to jump lines but not spend so much, a different Timesaver applies to eight rides only.)

Those of us who don’t enjoy terrorizing ourselves also had plenty to do, perfectly pitched to a variety of ages. The youngest kid we brought was my 22-month-old, who loved the baby rides. It took folding myself into several ridiculously pint-sized seats to discover my little guy could go on several himself, and then I cheered from the sidelines.

I was worried he might freak out because he’s an extremely clingy momma’s boy, but he didn’t scream at or for me, a major win for both of us. I brought a toddler pack to carry him around instead of a stroller, and that also worked well. If it were blistering hot I would have done the stroller instead.

For the six and under crowd, our favorite two theme park locations were Wildwood Grove and the Country Fair. Both had rides throughout. I’d say the latter has more to do in one spot for multiple ages and Wildwood Grove is more pitched to the younger kids. The latter has splashpad-like sprinklers for summer heat, and if I lived in the area I’d bring my toddlers and preschoolers there often on a season pass.

Dollywood also has a waterpark, but we didn’t visit it this time. I would definitely be interested in that for a future summer visit.

**Clean, Not Overly Branded, Well-Maintained**

One thing I hate about being a mom in the 21st-century United States — and, yes, I know this is a first-world problem — is the insane level of marketing foisted upon me and my kids. That’s one of the reasons I don’t like Disney. It appears to be a dollar-obsessed cult that tries to monetize every flash of your eyeballs.

To me, this weaponizes family life as well as cedes parental prerogatives to strangers, by openly urging kids to whine for cheap, unfulfilling, Chinese-factory-made trash because it has Minnie Mouse’s face on it. I work to reduce my children’s exposure to brands because 1) it’s expensive to care about that meaningless crap 2) it adds unnecessary friction to our relationship, and 3) deliberately exploits children’s immaturity to get more dollars and I believe that is morally wrong.

Dollywood used none of the high-pressure Disney manipulation tactics that upset me so much. There were no characters with backstories and gobs of branded merch, no forgettable and ear-shriveling pop tunes autotuned by embarrassingly sexualized tweens, no morally bankrupt but doe-eyed heroines trying to steal my daughters’ souls. Just good, clean fun.

Speaking of clean, because I also have a four-year-old whose ability to hold her water is very limited, I probably sampled the majority of Dollywood’s bathrooms. I found some a bit dated in style — just cinderblock buildings in a few cases — but they had baby changing stations and were clean, plentiful, and easy to find.



I could not go on this ride. It was too scary. My five-year-old cousin, however, loved it.

For people like me who hate Covid theater because it is the mark of a ruling class who loves to crush the American people for spite, I will disclose my estimate that I saw masks on maybe one in a few hundred people while we were there. It was refreshing to see that all of America hasn’t been broken by wall-to-wall public health lies.

**Go Just for the Music**

Another major boost to the Dollywood experience was — of course — the folk and country music piped throughout the park as well as the multiple live music venues. The music was foot-tapping, country folk, wholesome, high-quality, high-class, exuberant, and utterly enjoyable. It reinforced the wholesome Americana feel of the entire park, which emphasizes Dolly Parton’s country mountain roots.

Several of the artists and venues were overtly Christian, with refreshingly *no*apologies made about that. The park also has a chapel. I’m a high-church kind of gal who cringes at most of what is marketed as Christian music, but this was top-notch music that happened to be Christian, not embarrassing music passed off as good because it warbled about Boyfriend Jesus.

I’ve never been in any public place, such as a mall, with better background music. I would have gone to Dollywood just to listen to the music. It was wonderful to expose my children to that uplifting atmosphere. It constantly boosted my spirits and eased the minor sufferings of walking around all day in the sun on my feet carrying a fussy toddler in a people-filled public place.

Thank you, Dolly Parton. That was the cherry on top, and it was clearly all you.

**Assorted Side Observations**

Once you’re in Dollywood, you don’t have to keep buying tickets or tokens for more rides. Pay the entrance fee and you get all the rides you can manage. I’d way rather pay one big entrance fee then do the park at my family’s pace than constantly shuffle and shell out for this ride and that and then have no idea how much this all is costing me and where to find some freaking more tokens while my kids whine.

As is clear by now, overall Dollywood was an excellent experience and I highly recommend it for those for whom several hundred or a few thousand dollars are already budgeted for a family vacation. If you haven’t been there yet, put it on your list.

I do have two minor criticisms. The food sold in the park was yummy and of a wide variety. It was, however, what I’d call obscenely expensive. That is probably due to a combination of inflation Dollywood can’t control, the scarcity of workers (one or two of the in-park eateries were closed with signs stating it was due to staffing shortages), and the usual fair-food markup. Also, I don’t often take my kids out to eat in general — I don’t feel the value I get out of that experience is usually equal to the cost. Anyway, we brought most of our own food and had a big meal at [Pirate’s Voyage](https://www.dollywood.com/Shows/Pirates-Voyage) midday, so that worked out fine.

The second thing was that for some reason I never saw a water bottle fill-up station. They must have been somewhere but I didn’t see them, and I was looking. We bring our reusable water bottles everywhere, especially in all-day outdoor environments like this one. Speaking of outdoors, I recommend hats or sunscreen for those who burn.

I’d say if you wanted to visit Dollywood on a budget, a family of four could do it for about $500 without the ticket add-ons and bringing in your own picnic lunch and not staying overnight, but there are certainly also lots of ways to spend more and therefore do more. Obviously different families have different budgets and preferences and it’s part of family life to navigate that.

If you wanted to spend more of a typical American family vacation budget of $1,000-$2,000 (or, if we’re comparing to ridiculous Disney, five or ten), you could do two-day passes (or one day at the theme park and one at the waterpark), spend the extra for the Timesaver passes and premier parking, eat in the park, and stay overnight or for the weekend nearby. By the way, I liked the gift shop, too! One of the better ones I’ve seen.

There was so much to do and see, we could have spent several more days there and still done something new all day, every day. That’s also only in the Dollywood theme park proper — the entire area has enough to do to occupy months, not least of which for me would be the Great Smoky Mountains. Next time.

**The Real War in Ukraine**

Fox News (that is, the news portion of the media operation) serves as a propaganda voice for the Neoconservative globalists of the managerial Deep State.
That much should be clear simply by tuning in for just a few minutes to view Fox News’ over-the-top coverage of the Ukrainian conflict.

It’s nothing new.

Two prominent examples immediately come to mind. Both primetime announcer Bret Baier, author of a potboiler praising Ulysses Grant, and Brian Kilmeade, author of an unserious volume praising the collaboration of Abraham Lincoln and radical revolutionary Frederick Douglass, serve as a zealous “amen corner” for American intervention globally. (Both books were no doubt written with critical collaboration from “ghost writers”)

And who can forget the unbridled globalism (and anti-Trumpism) of the late Charles Krauthammer, and his boast that after the fall of Communism, “we now live in a unipolar world,” controlled essentially by American business and political elites and the US state department, and anyone who stands in our (their) way must be taught “a lesson in American democracy?”

Just as our Federal government had “saved” the Union in the war of northern aggression scorching from existence Confederates and their traitorous leaders (e.g. Lee and Davis), so now America must go round the world to “enlighten” it about all the wonders and blessings of our form of democratic socialism.

Whether in Syria, where Fox was joined at the hip to the late John McCain’s frenzied calls for the United States to intervene against the legitimate and Christian-supported government of President Bashar Assad (as McCain stood on the ground arm-in-arm with ISIS-connected guerrillas), or its plea that American soldiers must stay in Afghanistan long after the imposed twenty-year US “experiment in democracy” had been deemed a failure, or now with its unbelievably propagandistic coverage of the conflict in Ukraine, Fox News is not adverse to employing disinformation and extreme emotionalism in the causes it advances.

I found myself it a hotel in Indiana a couple of weeks ago, and I switched on “Fox & Friends.” The program ended with the network offering its viewers a performance by pop singer Vladimir John Ondrasik of his new “patriotic” song: “Can One Man Save the World?”

As I listened to Ondrasik and the words of his song, the motivation and object were apparent: the embattled president of Ukraine, Volodymir Zelensky, has become the new “savior of the world,” indeed a near-perfect, holy, Christ-like figure, sent from Heaven to lead the peoples of the earth into a new age, annealed in democracy, freedom, and accompanying exaltation…despite the fact that the country he leads is probably the most corrupt and undemocratic in Europe.

I was getting physically ill. Brian Kilmeade, seized the moment and deeply affected by Ondrasik’s paegan lyrics glorifying the comedian playing a role as president of Ukraine. Here was “the Abraham Lincoln of Ukraine,” leading his beleaguered nation against those awful pro-Russian secessionists in Donetsk and Lugansk provinces which have declared their independence from Kiev (the flag these states have adopted is [modeled on the Confederate Battle Flag](https://www.abbevilleinstitute.org/blog/ukrainian-dixie-flag/)) and against the forces of the new Satan himself, Vladimir Putin, brooding and mentally-deranged, crouching in the dark recesses of the Kremlin.

Volodymyr Zelensky is a crackhead comedian and former performing drag queen who was literally plucked out of nowhere, by Victoria Nuland to become the current president of Ukraine. Archbishop Carlo Vigano’, former Apostolic Nuncio in the United State for the Catholic Church and an highly informed observer of Eastern European cultural and political matters, [offers this picture](https://www.marcotosatti.com/2022/03/07/declaration-of-msgr-carlo-maria-vigano-on-the-russia-ukraine-crisis/):

*Zelensky’s performances as a drag queen are perfectly consistent with the LGBTQ ideology that is considered by his European sponsors as an indispensable requirement of the “reform” agenda that every country ought to embrace, along with gender equality, abortion and the green economy. No wonder Zelensky, a member of the WEF [World Economic Forum]  (*[*here*](https://www.weforum.org/people/volodymyr-zelenskyy)*), was able to benefit from the support of Klaus Schwab and his allies [including George Soros] to come to power and ensure that the Great Reset would also be carried out in Ukraine…. In his homeland, many accuse him of having taken power away from the pro-Russian oligarchs not to give it to the Ukrainian people, but rather to strengthen his own interest group and at the same time remove his political adversaries.*

After his selection, Zelensky [closed seven opposition](https://www.marcotosatti.com/2022/03/07/declaration-of-msgr-carlo-maria-vigano-on-the-russia-ukraine-crisis/) television channels, arrested the opposition press, and arrested and accused the leader of the major opposition party in Ukraine, Arsen Medvedcuk, of treason, while naming his friends and associates to powerful and lucrative high positions in the government. President Donald Trump was impeached for just talking to the man on the phone.

And this is the man that Nancy Pelosi holds up as “the champion of democracy” and for whom Brian Kilmeade blubbers his unreserved admiration as another Abraham Lincoln.

Since Nuland and her blood warriors violently overthrew the government of Ukraine in 2014, Slaughtering hundreds of Ukrainians in the now infamous Maidan Massacre, the seceded republics of Donetsk and Lugansk have suffered approximately 14,000 civilian casualties at the hands of Azov troops. They wave Nazi flags. They have swastikas tattooed on the chests. They are the descendants of the SS Waffen from the 1944 Nazis. We have kept you up to date on this war for the last 8 years.

But the Fox News viewers get graphic images of hospitals, maternity wards and civilian apartments destroyed, it is repeated incessantly, by Russian missiles and long-range artillery fire. They don’t see the Azovs sniping civilians who are trying to escape the human shield barracks. They don’t show you the thousands of women who have bene raped by Nazi sosldiers, or the cages with children in them suffering in Nuland’s biolabs as they are used as lab rats for their Nazi experiments to develop e bioweapon that can wipe out Russians.

Their careful produced and edited “war crimes” should cause viewers to doubt what they are seeing. The camera is in the right place. The same scene is used 5 times for different war crime reports with different actors in them. The first question that arises is: why would the Russian Army *specifically* target civilians and hospitals, for all the world to plainly see, when already they are receiving such negative press in the West?  What could they possibly gain from such behavior?

Indeed, with nearly 20% of the Ukrainian population ethnically Russian and stated Russian war aims to pacify and win over at least portions of the country, such mindless attacks would seem counter-productive. The answer is that it is not Russians. It is Ukrainians of German descent with swastikas on their bodies and blood on their hands.

The Azov Battalion militia group ([trained by the CIA](https://www.aol.com/news/exclusive-secret-cia-training-program-090052594.html)) and other violent nationalist formations have engaged in terrorism against Russian civilians since 2014. Part of the strategy of such groups is to stage false flag operations, to occupy a hospital, for instance, and use it as a base for sniper fire against Russian regulars. Then, when the Russians fire back, to show vivid images to eager Western reporters of the “war crimes” committed by those hated Russians. Nothing gets the attention and sympathy of American viewers more than scenes of dying innocent mothers with their young babies, savagely slaughtered by those evil Orc-like demons from the cold north. And nothing makes better fodder for Ukrainian propagandists than those images spread across American HD wide-screens.

They were planning a massive invasion of Crimea on March 23rd, as I stated already. Hundreds of thousands of unarmed Crimeans would have been slaughtered, ad they seized the oil and gas rich properties along the Crimean coast.

As Archbishop Vigano’ [has observed](https://www.marcotosatti.com/2022/03/07/declaration-of-msgr-carlo-maria-vigano-on-the-russia-ukraine-crisis/) (March 6):
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*It is dismaying to see with what hypocrisy the European Union and the United States – Brussels and Washington – are giving their unconditional support to President Zelensky, whose government for eight years now has continued to violently persecute Russian-speaking Ukrainians with impunity (*[*here*](https://youtu.be/6Oh-IE2zmJc)*), for whom it is even forbidden to speak in their own language… And it is scandalous that they are silent about the use of civilians as human shields by the Ukrainian army, which places anti-aircraft positions inside population centers, hospitals and maternity wards, schools and kindergartens precisely so that their destruction can cause deaths among the population.*
Investigative journalists, Glenn Greenwald (on Substack), Patrick Lancaster, Russel Bentley, and many others working on the front lines in Ukraine are showing us the truth. *Chronicles* magazine assistant editor Pedro Gonzalez (March 7), has also documented the incredibly large number of such instances, of horribly tragic attacks seemingly aimed at civilians, supposedly by the Russian army, only on closer inspection to have been committed by the Azov Militia under the orders of the Angel of Death. It used to be McCain giving the orders. The it weas Biden giving the orders. And now, it is Victoria Nuland herself giving the orders.

*I will share with you the links of the evidence the fake stream news has been pumping at you for weeks now. They have shown the world video from the game War Thunder (*[*here*](https://www.rollingstone.it/politica/il-tg2-ha-scambiato-la-clip-di-un-videogioco-per-una-pioggia-di-missili-sullucraina/619321/amp/)*), frames from the movie Star Wars (*[*here*](https://twitter.com/DrEliDavid/status/1498736312714768385?s=20&t=XJSZaSl3_VWB_5a-mXqx3w)*), explosions in China (*[*here*](https://twitter.com/federazionedic1/status/1497151766575603712?s=20&t=XJSZaSl3_VWB_5a-mXqx3w)*), videos of military parades (*[*here*](https://twitter.com/FactaNews/status/1496824777683574789?s=20&t=XJSZaSl3_VWB_5a-mXqx3w)*), footage from Afghanistan (*[*here*](https://twitter.com/DonatiGraziano/status/1499353081771065347?s=20&t=XJSZaSl3_VWB_5a-mXqx3w)*), from the Rome metro (*[*here*](https://twitter.com/valeangelsback/status/1498910882276990979?s=20&t=XJSZaSl3_VWB_5a-mXqx3w)*) or images of mobile crematoria (*[*here*](https://twitter.com/fratotolo2/status/1499650122090696705)*), passing them off as real and recent scenes of Russian “war crimes,” the reality of the war in Ukraine is ignored because it has already been decided to employ the conflict as a weapon of mass distraction that legitimizes new restrictions of freedoms in Western nations, according to the plans of the World Economic Forum’s Great Reset and the United Nations’ Agenda 2030.*
And then, as intended, comes the outrage of American viewers, the feverish calls in Congress “to establish a no-fly zone” over Ukraine (an insane idea embraced by Republicans Lindsey Graham and Adam Kinzinger, which would lead undoubtedly to World War III) or to assassinate President Putin of Russia.

The Global Syndicate propaganda works its magic. Not only is American corporate enterprise doing its best to cancel Russia, anything or anybody in any way who dissents from the dogmatic establishment viewpoint on the conflict is also “cancelled” or denounced as a “traitor” (e.g., Mitt Romney’s vicious attack on former Representative Tulsi Gabbard’s quite factual words as “treasonous”). My friend, brad Olsen had his entire Facebook page permanently deleted for making a comment about Putin. TikTok videos are banned by the hundreds every day for showing Azovs killing, torturing, and beating Russians.

Have we not heard this chorus before? Is our memory so short that we cannot recall the unceasing examples of Russophobia during the Trump presidency? And yet many of the same “conservatives” who strongly and rightly resisted the disinformation percolating for the past six years, now accept the words, the photo montages, and the reporting of the same media and government voices as absolute, incontrovertible gospel?

Our news media decries censorship in Russia; the Russians, they say, are only presenting one side to their population. But, let me ask, is not the American media doing exactly the same thing? Are not their strident voices—and not just that of the brain-dead Mitt Romney and Adam Kinzinger—demanding that any dissenter, even the mildest and most circumspect (e.g., Tucker Carlson), be censored, throttled, even imprisoned for “thought crimes”?

Even such internationally-famed artists and cultural icons as the Russian orchestra conductor [Valery Gergiev and soprano Anna Netrebko](https://www.nytimes.com/2022/02/27/arts/music/met-opera-putin-ukraine-peter-gelb.html) are immediately fired, their contracts summarily terminated by practically all American and Western institutions they were to grace with their talent because [they won’t openly and forthrightly denounce and condemn](https://www.npr.org/sections/deceptivecadence/2022/02/27/1083387627/metropolitan-opera-sever-ties-putin-ukraine-gergiev-netrebko) their home country and its president. And, more, the dozens of DVDs and compact discs of their performances are now disappearing from sellers, or prices for their works are now reaching astronomical figures.

Not even during the hottest moments of the Cold War was such extreme censorship exercised.

Yes, it IS censorship, perhaps less open and more subtle, but there just the same, progressively accomplishing its goal of silencing and punishing anyone who demurs.

The American pot is calling the Russian kettle black.

Far too many Americans do not comprehend the fundamental issues involved in this conflict. Of course, Ukrainians are fighting Russians, and the near-totality of the West is both condemning the Russians and aiding Ukraine. But Ukraine is only a pawn is a much larger global game. Our managerial and foreign policy elites, despite their professed anguish over the blood being shed tragically in that corner of Eastern Europe, do not actually care about the poor Ukrainians living in besieged Kiev or the poor Russians living in the war-torn Donbas. What is important to them is, above all, the major effort and push for a globalist “Great Reset” using the Ukrainian conflict to finally accomplish their objective of bringing the entire world in accord with their plans for a New World Order. And to do that, Russia, which now stands athwart their designs, must be diminished and brought into line.

As international leaders from Klaus Schwab, head of the World Economic Forum, to George Soros, with his multiple international NGOs, to various government officials in Kiev have declared (in the words of Ukrainian parliamentarian [Kira Rudik to Fox News](https://www.marcotosatti.com/2022/03/07/declaration-of-msgr-carlo-maria-vigano-on-the-russia-ukraine-crisis/)): “We know that we are not only fighting for Ukraine, but also for the New World Order.”

And that new order is not that of the traditional Christian West. Nor is Volodymyr Zelensky the “one man who can save the world.” *That* Man suffered on a Cross for us 2,000 years ago.